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information bulletin

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A MESSAGE FROM VIVIANE NAMASTE ACTING PRINCIPAL, SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR INSTITUTE

Well, another academic term is upon us! As usual, we have an exciting range of courses to be offered at the Institute this term. In addition to our core courses and some of our most popular electives, new course offerings for the fall include *Feminist Spoken Word*, and *Gender, Space and the City*. Such innovative course offerings are part of what makes the Institute unique, and we hope they foster engaged dialogue and reflection on issues of importance to feminist activists and scholars.

We are organizing a variety of different events in the coming weeks – everything from our general Orientation party, to a Research Seminar, to workshops for students interested in applying to graduate school. We hope these events fulfill your different needs as students, faculty and Research Associates – from the practical to the social to the intellectual! For more information on these events, watch for posters around the halls of the Institute, and consult the calendar of events on the back page of this newsletter.

Our new hire, Dr. Gada Mahrouse, will begin working with us in January 2008. Please welcome her with the enthusiasm and cheerfulness you demonstrated when I joined the Institute in 2002; it impressed me greatly and made me happy to work here. Gada has also written a brief note introducing herself and her research. Please, join me in welcoming Gada to Institute life!

On a related subject of hiring, this year we will also conduct a search for a new Institute Principal. Watch for more information about this process in the coming months.

It promises to be another busy year filled with reflection, organizing, teaching, learning and scholarship. I look forward to working with you all this year as we continue to make the Institute a dynamic site of feminist inquiry and action.

- Viviane

Feminist Research at Concordia

Here at the Simone de Beauvoir Institute, we're in the initial planning stages of a conference dedicating to showcasing *Feminist Research at Concordia*. There's a wealth of innovative and engaging research being done here, and we'd like to create an opportunity for us to learn about the different kinds of feminist research going on at Concordia. If you teach and research at Concordia (whether part time or full time), if you are a graduate student, if you're in the Faculty of Engineering, Fine Arts, Arts and Science or the John Molson School of Business; if you're working on feminist research and you'd be interested in presenting your work, we'd like to hear from you ! Tentatively planned for the spring of 2008, the conference will allow us to learn, to meet other feminist researchers, and to communicate our research findings to Concordia and beyond.

We'll be sending out a call for papers soon, so keep your eyes peeled!

Reminder:

Institute Council Meeting

A reminder that the next Institute Council will be Friday, October 26, 1 – 4 pm. All welcome! ☺

Notes of Interest

Is it better to travel to the Global South on “solidarity tours” rather than simply as tourists? If so, how are socially responsible travellers to negotiate race, gender, and class in relation to the people and places we are visiting? What distinguishes us “witnessing” the struggles of certain communities from merely gazing at them? These are the types of questions presently spinning around my head – questions that I am hoping to explore in-depth with some of you.

Hi everyone, my name is Gada Mahrouse. In January 2008, I join the Simone de Beauvoir Institute as a new member of the Faculty. The areas of specialization for this position are feminist perspectives on race and racism and post-colonial issues. These issues are at the heart of my interests. My doctoral research focussed on solidarity activists who travel to act as accompaniers, witnesses, or human shields. It offered insights into the ways transnational activism is embedded in imperialist relationships of power. Building on this, I want to next examine racialized power relations in various forms of more ethical or “alternative” travel/tourism.

I am so pleased to become a member of this Institute because I know that many of you are also grappling with these kinds of complex questions. I would love to know what you think and to hear about your interests. I believe that on-going dialogue on these matters is especially important now, as it is becoming more and more difficult to ignore our complicity in Empire.

Working at the SDB has much personal significance for me as well ... I grew up in Montreal, did my BA at Concordia, and it was SDB courses that first prompted me to think critically about social justice and to get involved in community organizing. It is wonderful to be back at this unique and influential Institute.

Although I officially begin in January (teaching the *Feminisms, Race, and Racisms* course), I will be around throughout the Fall term, getting settled in. Please drop by to say hello. I really look forward to working with all of you.

Gada

External Evaluation of the Simone de Beauvoir Institute

As many of you are aware, the Institute was evaluated last academic year as part of the regular appraisal of academic programs for universities. The evaluators' final report is now complete. You can consult a hard copy of the report in the Institute office. The final report offers some very engaging recommendations in terms of curriculum, activities, and resources -- all in the efforts of helping us to be a unique and dynamic place for feminist scholarship in Canada. Thank you again to all those who participated in the evaluation: your comments and suggestions are most appreciated !

Students:

If you haven't done so already, please make an appointment to meet with Linda for Academic Advising. It's a good idea to meet with Linda now, at the beginning of the term, to make sure that you have all your course requirements for your program. Taking a few minutes now can avoid unpleasant surprises later on – it's always better to learn sooner rather than later that you need such and such a course to graduate ! ☺



Congratulations Graduates

Spring 2007

Augusta Acquah –
Major Women's Studies/Minor Education

Sarah Anderson –
Major Human Relations/Minor Women's Studies

Katherine Bateman –
Specialization Women's Studies

Emily Bitting –
Major Political Science/Major Women's Studies

Laurence Fauteux –
Major Women's Studies

Gelila Getaneh –
Major Women's Studies/Major Political Science

Alicia Glanville –
Major Women's Studies

Lina Marie Harper –
Major Women's Studies/Major Communications

Maryamm Ashraff Himid –
Major Women's Studies

Natasha Hughes –
Major Women's Studies

Aislinn Casey Jorgensen –
Major Women's Studies

Shaileigh Keaney –
Major Women's Studies

Karine Lauzon –
Major Women's Studies

Marie-Claire MacPhee –
Specialization Women's Studies

Rebecca Reeves –
Specialization Women's Studies
and the recipient of both the Mair Verthuy Scholarship and the Thérèse Casgrain Medal

Ruhamah Richer –
Major Women's Studies/Minor Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality

Cynthia Erin Shulak – Major Women's Studies

Katerina Amy Sokyrko –
Major Western Society and Culture/Major Women's Studies

Student News

WSSA Welcome Week!

Welcome from the Women's Studies Student Association (WSSA) to a new academic year. We have a brand new exec, a brand new office, and a new approach this year. We feel we have an amazing community of academics and activists, and we want to showcase this to the Concordia community, the Montreal community and beyond.

Come check out the Women Studies Student Association's new office on the second floor. Stop by the office anytime, we'll make a point of being available from the 10th to the 14th, and will be hosting an office-warming party on Wednesday, September 12th from 4:30 to 7:30pm. Our new office is room number 201-3. We look forward to meeting and greeting you!

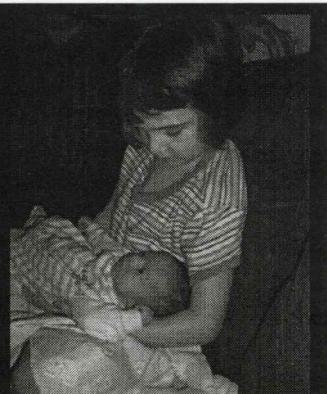
The Institute and WSSA will be having a BBQ on Wednesday, September 19th from 12 pm to 2 pm on the outside mezzanine behind Java U. Stop by and meet faculty and staff, as well as classmates and collaborators. Best of all, come and enjoy tasty treats!

Keep an eye out for further postings on upcoming WSSA events, including a series of grad school workshops planned for late September and early October.

WSSA is your organization. Help us represent your interests by joining us for meetings and events. You may reach us by email: wssa.concordia@hotmail.com, online: myspace.com/wssa.concordia, or at facebook.ca (Simone de Beauvoir Institute group) or in person at the institute, room 201-3.

Sept. 10-14, with Office Warming Sept. 12 starting around 4:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Tifanie Valade, Raymond Cornell and family on the arrival of their son, Liam Joseph Cornell. Liam was born May 16, 2007 and weighed in at 4.5 lbs. He is pictured here with his big sister, Hope.



Calendar of Events

INSTITUTE ORIENTATION Wednesday, Sept 12, noon, MU-101

Institute Orientation – come and meet faculty, students, staff and other Institute members. If you're new to the Institute, it's a great chance to learn about what we do and meet new people. If you already know the Institute, drop by and meet friends and colleagues!

WSSA Office Warming Wednesday, Sept 12, 4:00, MU 201-3

Come see the new WSSA office and learn more about the Women's Studies Students' Association

BBQ AND JAM SESSION Wednesday, Sept 19, noon – 2 pm, Mezzanine Terrasse, Hall Building

WSSA (Women's Studies Students' Association) and the SdB co-present a BBQ and jam session!!! Come and share in some BBQ food (veggie options will be available too!). Bring your instruments, voices, and enthusiasm for a relaxed afternoon of socializing and music.

SO YOU WANT TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL ?

Thursday, Sept 20, 1 pm
Institute Conference Room (MU-202)

Are you considering going to graduate school? Interested in learning more about how to apply, how to write a "personal statement," or how to ask a professor for a letter of recommendation? Want to learn more about the different sources of funding available for graduate students? (Yes, you can earn money to read books!) Come to this introductory workshop and ask your questions!

Walking Tour of Quartier Concordia Friday, Sept 21, 1 pm , MU- 101

Especially For New Students!

Are you new to Concordia and the Simone de Beauvoir Institute? Would you like to learn more about some of the resources you may need on campus? Do you know where to find Health Services, the Office for Students with Disabilities, or Counselling and Development? Where can you find a quiet place to study on or near campus? Did you know there are a number of different art galleries downtown where you can go if you have an hour or two between classes? Would you like to learn where there are some good bookstores in and around campus? Come on this walking tour. Wear some comfortable shoes. We'll walk for more than an hour and a half, and come back to have a light snack.

Registration required: please call us at 514-848-2424 x 2370 to reserve your place.

RESEARCH SEMINAR

Wednesday, Sept 26, noon – 1:30 MU-101

Dr. Sima Aprahamian

" From Ottomanism to Turkish Nationalism & Beyond: A Brief History of the Women's Movement in Turkey."

DOING FEMINIST GRADUATE STUDIES AT CONCORDIA ?

Friday, Sept 28, 1 pm Mu-101

This is an informal lunch meeting for graduate students working on feminist research at Concordia. Come and meet other feminist graduate students, learn different tips and tricks for negotiating institutional life, and break the isolation that can be a part of graduate studies.

We'll serve a light lunch, and a relaxed friendly atmosphere is guaranteed !

Registration required: please call us at 514-848-2424 x 2370 to reserve your place.